

film;

heater driving means for moving said heater unit between a sealing position at which said heater unit contacts said film and a retracted position at which said heater unit is separated from said chute;

an air cylinder for controlling compressive force with which said heater unit at said sealing position compresses said film against said chute by having air of a specified pressure supplied thereto;

pressure regulating means for regulating air pressure supplied to said air cylinder to a specified pressure level; and

a controller for controllingly varying said specified pressure level.

Add the following new claims:

--18. The packaging machine of claim 2 wherein said heater driving means includes another air cylinder.

19. The packaging machine of claim 2 further comprising a support unit which supports said heater unit and is slidable towards and away from said chute, said heater driving means operating to move said heater unit between said sealing position and said retracted position by moving said support unit, said air cylinder acting only on said heater unit to control said compressive force.

20. The packaging machine of claim 19 further comprising support unit moving means for moving said support unit between a work area which includes both said sealing position and said retracted position and a non-working area which is farther away from said chute than said work area.--

REMARKS

Claims 1-5 and 18-20 currently remain in the application. Claims 6-17 have been cancelled.